

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

After numbered paragraph [0005], please add numbered paragraph [0005.1] as follows:

[0005.1] Figure 3 illustrates a mobile interactive food dispenser connected to a dock, and a computing device connected to the dock, in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the invention.

Please replace numbered paragraph [0019] with the following paragraph:

[0019] The controller 112 can monitor the level(s) of food or payload within the dispenser 100, and can be programmed or configured to provide alerts such as periodic aural tones, an indicator or status lamp such as an LED (Light Emitting Diode) display or lamp or an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) display, and/or can automatically seek out a reloading station and dock with a reloading station and automatically refill supplies of food(s) or other payload(s) so that the dispenser 100 is replenished automatically. The dock or reloading station can also replenish the dispenser 100 with power, for example by providing electricity to recharge the dispenser's rechargeable battery pack or by providing a replacement battery or power pack. The dock or reloading station can also be provided with a data port and a connection to a local or remote computing device, so that data can be transferred between the dispenser 100 and the computing device (to transfer history or data regarding the pet and the dispenser's actions and status to the computing device, to transfer new instructions, programs or configuration information from the computing

device to the dispenser, and so forth). In this way, for example, a pet owner on vacation could access the computing device and/or the dispenser 100 via a dialup connection, an Internet connection, and so forth and obtain a report of the pet's behavior and health. The connection between the dispenser 100 and the dock or reloading station can be an electrical cable connection, an optical connection, a wireless connection, or any connection for conveying information between the dispenser 100 and the dock. The dispenser 100 can be configured with serial and/or parallel data ports or connections, and so forth, for connecting to the dock or another computing device for example a laptop or desktop computer. Figure 3 illustrates an exemplary embodiment wherein the dispenser 100 is docked or connected to a dock or reloading station 310, which is in turn connected to a computing device 320 via a connection 330.